

June 2, 1910.

To American Teachers:--

As another school year is drawing to its close, I am writing to congratulate you as a class upon the excellent work which you have done. No other year has meant more to the People of Porto Rico in the way of educational progress, and no others have contributed more largely to that progress than yourselves. Almost without exception, more than ordinary efficiency has been shown, as well as a sympathetic appreciation of the ideals and aspirations of a people to whom you came as strangers.

Permit me to express the hope that if the tropical climate has in any way made inroads upon your health, that your summer vacation may fully restore it; many of you to return again in the fall; others to take up work elsewhere.

It has been the experience of the Department that there have been among the American teaching force a considerable number each year who, although they had signified their intention to return, do not do so, nor do they think it worth while to notify me of their change of intention. You can readily see that with the opening of the school year, if a considerable number of those who are expected fail to return, we are placed in an uncomfortable predicament.

I am, therefore, asking you to write me--preferably on the boat leaving New York, Saturday, August 27, and, in any event, not later than that date--of your intention to come or not to come, stating boat on which you intend to sail. I shall feel at liberty to fill the position that had been reserved for you in case you do not comply with this request. If you doubt the trustworthiness of the mail, you might register your letter.

Please file your summer address in my office before leaving the island.

Again wishing you a very pleasant vacation, I am

Yours very truly,

EDWIN G. DEXTER
Commissioner of Education